

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-2, 4-12, 19-26 and 31-34 without acquiescence in the grounds of rejection, and without prejudice to pursue at a later time by continuation application or otherwise.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method for on-line or off-line validation of gaming pay-out vouchers dispensed from an electronic gaming machine, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving voucher identification information at a wireless, portable computer device, said voucher identification information corresponding to a pay-out voucher dispensed from an electronic gaming machine;

transmitting, over a wireless connection, a voucher validation request from the wireless, portable computer device to a remote wireless interface, said remote wireless interface connected to a central network computer;

conveying the voucher validation request from the remote wireless interface to the central network computer;

attempting to retrieve a voucher record in a voucher database based upon said voucher identification information;

confirming, if said voucher record was retrieved, that the corresponding pay-out voucher has not yet been paid based on payment information in said voucher record, and transmitting, via said remote wireless interface, a voucher pay-out approval from said central network computer to **[[a]]** said wireless, portable computer device if the pay-out voucher was not yet paid, or else a voucher pay-out disapproval if the pay-out voucher was already paid;

displaying, if said voucher record was retrieved, an indication of said voucher pay-out approval or voucher pay-out disapproval on-screen at said wireless, portable computer device;

transmitting, if said voucher record could not be retrieved, a voucher record unavailable indication from said central network computer, via said remote wireless interface, to said wireless, portable computer device;

receiving said voucher record unavailable indication at said wireless, portable computer device and, in response thereto, displaying ~~an error~~ a message;

receiving a voucher amount [[at]] via a user interface of said wireless, remote computer device after displaying said [[error]] message;

transmitting said voucher amount and said voucher identification information, via said wireless interface, to said central network computer from said wireless, portable computer device; and

preparing a voucher database reconciliation record at said central network computer for updating said voucher database at a subsequent time to reflect that the pay-out voucher has been paid.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of, in connection with transmitting said voucher pay-out approval to said wireless, portable computer device, updating said voucher record to indicate that the pay-out voucher has been paid.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:
reading a pay-out amount from said voucher record;
transmitting, along with said voucher pay-out approval indication, said pay-out amount from the central network computer to said portable computer device via said remote transmitter; and
displaying said pay-out amount at said portable computer device.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting from an electronic gaming machine, when the pay-out voucher is initially dispensed, said voucher identification information and the pay-out amount to said central network computer; and

creating and storing a voucher record in said voucher database in response to said voucher identification information.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said voucher identification information comprises a machine identifier and a time stamp indicating a time at which the pay-out voucher was initially dispensed.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said wireless, portable computer device comprises a personal digital assistant.

19-26. (Canceled)

27. (Withdrawn) A system for facilitating real-time validation of pay-out vouchers dispensed from on-line electronic gaming machines so as to assist gaming floor personnel, the system comprising:

a central computer;

a gaming machine interface via which a plurality of on-line electronic gaming machines automatically convey voucher identification information and voucher pay-out amounts generated by the on-line electronic gaming machines when pay-out vouchers are dispensed therefrom at the termination of player gaming sessions;

a pay-out voucher database accessible to said central computer for storing the voucher identification information and voucher pay-out amounts from the on-line electronic gaming machines;

a wireless interface communicatively coupled to said central computer; and

a plurality of wireless portable computer devices adapted for manual transport, each of said wireless portable computer devices comprising

a data input interface configured to receive manually or semi-manually entered pay-out voucher identification information based

upon information present on the pay-out vouchers dispensed from the on-line electronic gaming machines;

a wireless transceiver configured to communicate with said central computer via said wireless interface and transmit pay-out voucher validation requests thereby, and to receive validation responses from the central computer, and

a display configured to display information pertaining to the validation responses received from the central computer.

28. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 27, wherein said central computer receives the pay-out voucher validation requests electronically from said wireless portable computer devices via said wireless interface, confirms by checking the pay-out voucher database that a given pay-out voucher has not yet been paid, and sends to the wireless portable computer device that sent the pay-out voucher validation request, via said wireless interface, either a voucher pay-out approval indication or else a voucher pay-out disapproval indication depending upon whether the voucher was previously paid.

29. (Withdrawn) The system of 27, wherein said pay-out voucher identification information is entered via said data input interface through a keyboard, keypad, mouse, or stylus.

30. (Withdrawn) The system of 27, wherein said pay-out voucher identification information is entered via said data input interface through an optical scanner.

31-34. (Canceled)

Please add the following new Claims:

35. (New) A system for on-line or off-line validation of gaming pay-out vouchers dispensed from an electronic gaming machine, comprising:

a wireless, portable computer device having a display and a user interface;

a central network computer;

a remote wireless interface communicatively coupled to said central network computer; and

a pay-out voucher database communicatively coupled to said central network computer;

wherein said wireless, portable computer device is configured to receive, via said user interface, voucher identification information corresponding to a pay-out voucher dispensed from an electronic gaming machine, and to transmit, over a wireless connection, a voucher validation request to said remote wireless interface;

wherein said remote wireless interface is configured to convey the voucher validation request to the central network computer;

wherein said central network computer is configured:

(i) to attempt to retrieve a voucher record in said voucher database based upon said voucher identification information and, if found and unpaid, transmitting a voucher pay-out approval to said wireless, portable computer device; and

(ii) to transmit, if said voucher record is unavailable, a voucher record unavailable indication to said wireless, portable computer device via said remote wireless interface;

wherein said wireless, portable computer device is further configured to present a message upon receiving said voucher record unavailable indication, to receive a voucher amount via said user interface as a result of receiving said voucher record unavailable indication, and to transmit said voucher amount to said central network computer; and

wherein said central network computer is further configured to prepare a voucher database reconciliation record at said central network computer for

updating said voucher database at a subsequent time to reflect that the pay-out voucher has been paid.

36. (New) The system of claim 35, wherein said central network computer is further configured to update said voucher record, in connection with transmitting said voucher pay-out approval to said wireless, portable computer device, to indicate that the pay-out voucher has been paid.

37. (New) The system of claim 35, wherein:

said central network computer is further configured to read a pay-out amount from said voucher record and to transmit, along with said voucher pay-out approval indication, said pay-out amount to said portable computer device; and

said wireless, portable computer device is configured to display said pay-out amount.

38. (New) The system of claim 35, further comprising at least one electronic gaming machine configured to convey said voucher identification information and the pay-out amount to said central network computer when the pay-out voucher is initially dispensed;

wherein said central network computer is further configured to create and store a voucher record in said voucher database in response to said voucher identification information.

39. (New) The system of claim 38, wherein said voucher identification information comprises a machine identifier and a time stamp indicating a time at which the pay-out voucher was initially dispensed.

40. (New) The system of claim 35, wherein said wireless, portable computer device comprises a personal digital assistant.